

INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM  
Pollution Control Commission

1.5  
Check  
Information  
For Action  
Permit  
Other

TO: George Hansen

DATE: April 4, 1966

FROM: Gene Asselstine

SUBJECT: American Smelting & Refining  
Van Stone Mine - Stevens County

Would you or some of your staff have a look at the enclosed data and offer comment as to your opinion?

American Smelting operates a typical lead-zinc concentrator using Xanthates for floatation and copper sulfate for conditioning (see application for additional details).

They have a clarifier for their total waste. The supernatant is reused in the mill and mine. The sludge goes to a tailing pile. The liquid from the surface is decanted off after several days' retention and goes to Onion Creek. The dilution factor is approximately 10-25 to 1. The overflow from the tailing pile has a small amount of suspended solids at the present time due to short retention time.

Mrs. Lotze has a well about 1/2 mile downstream on Onion Creek. This well is fairly shallow and is close to the creek--quite probably directly influenced.

As indicated on the enclosed report, the copper is getting up to the point that it is creating a problem in the well for the first time in many years. American was shut down from the late '50's until about a year ago.

Do you feel that the drainage from the tailing pile could be influencing the well?

  
EWA:go

Enclosures

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